

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Patent Application of |) | MAIL STOP: PCT |
| LAURI ESKOLA |) | Attention: DO/EO/US |
| Application No.: Unassigned |) | Group Art Unit: Unassigned |
| Filed: March 22, 2005 |) | Examiner: Unassigned |
| For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR |) | Confirmation No.: Unassigned |
| EXCLUDING ENTRY OF DEBRIS INTO |) | |
| AN OUTER SEAL OF A SHAFT |) | |
| PASSING THROUGH THE HULL OF A |) | |
| MARITIME VESSEL |) | |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a national phase filing of International Application No. PCT/FI2003/000694, filed September 24, 2003.

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant submits information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Copies of the International Search Report dated December 2, 2003, and the International Preliminary Examination Report dated December 22, 2004 are submitted herewith. Applicant also provides copies of the three (3) items cited in the International Search Report.

In the International Preliminary Examination Report claims were found to satisfy the criteria for novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability.

Applicant also provides a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,219,434 that is discussed at Page 1 of Applicant's Specification.

For the convenience of the Examiner, a form PTO-1449 is attached. It is requested that an Examiner-initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned once the above items are considered.

The examination and allowance of the Application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date March 22, 2005

By: Benton S. Duffett, Jr.
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO & 1449B/PTO

Complete Known

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

Application Number

Unassigned

Filing Date

March 22, 2005

First Named Inventor

LAURI ESKOLA

Examiner Name

Unassigned

Attorney Docket Number

032221-058

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Document Number | Kind Code (if known) | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Issue/Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY) |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | 3,934,952 | | GARDNER | January 27, 1976 |
| | 5,219,434 | | VON BERGEN <i>et al.</i> | June 15, 1993 |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Document Number | Kind Code (if known) | Country | Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY) | STATUS | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|------|----------|---------------|
| | | | | | Translation | Partial Translation | Eng. Lang. Summary | Search Report | IPER | Abstract | Cited in Spec |
| | 912,403 | | Great Britain | December 5, 1962 | | | | | | | |
| | 1,522,739 | | Great Britain | August 31, 1978 | | | | | | | |
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NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |
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Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.